

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mounting bracket, comprising:

5 a plurality of support rods of substantially fixed length each comprising a solitary member
formed of a uniformly continuous solid permanently bendable support rods each rod of unitary
structure and further comprising a substantially uniform cross-section extended uniformly between
opposing first and second end portions;

 means for clamping the first end portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed
10 arrangement; and

 means for securing the second end portions of the plurality of support rods relative to an
external surface.

Claim 2 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein each of the permanently bendable
support rods further comprises a uniformly continuous solid cross-section extended uniformly
15 continuously between the first end portions and the second end portions.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 2 wherein the securing means
further comprises means for permanently securing ~~one or more of~~ the second end ~~[[portions]]~~
portion of a first one of the plurality of support rods relative to an external surface.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 3 wherein the securing means
20 further comprises means for resisting relative slipping of ~~one or more of~~ the second end
~~[[portions]]~~ portion of a different second one of the plurality of support rods relative to an
external surface.

Claim 5 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein the means for clamping the first end
portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed arrangement further comprises means for
25 clamping each of the first end portions between an external collar and an internal wedge.

Claim 6 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 5 wherein the means for clamping each of the first end portions between an external collar and an internal wedge further comprises clamping a lengthwise portion of each of the first end portions in a lengthwise cylindrical cavity.

Claim 7 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 6 wherein the lengthwise cylindrical cavity further comprises a cavity formed between a pair of lengthwise part cylindrical relief grooves formed between the external collar and internal wedge.

Claim 8 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1, further comprising a flexible sheath substantially covering each of the plurality of permanently bendable support rods.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A vehicle mounting bracket, comprising:

10 a plurality of ~~elongated permanently bendable metal-unitary~~ support rods each comprising a solitary metal rod of single-piece construction of nonextensible elongated length and further comprising a substantially uniformly solid and indivisible cross-section extended substantially continuously between a first end portion structured for being clamped, and an opposite second end portion structured for being secured relative to an external surface, each of the rods being
15 substantially independently permanently bendable in three dimensions along substantially an entire length between the first and second end portions;

a clamp mechanism structured for clamping the first end portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed arrangement; and

20 a shoe mechanism coupled to the second end portions of one of the plurality of support rods, the shoe mechanism being structured for receiving a mechanical fastener for permanently securing the respective second end portion in a fixed position relative to an external surface.

Claim 10 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 9 wherein the clamp mechanism further comprises a female collar and a male wedge with one of the collar and the wedge being structured with a plurality of relief grooves each structured to accept the first end portion of one of the
25 plurality of support rods.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 10, further comprising:

three of the elongated permanently bendable support rods; and

wherein the clamp mechanism is further structured for clamping the first end portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed [[tripodal]] triangular arrangement.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 9 wherein each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods further comprises a rod formed of a metal selected from the group of permanently bendable metals consisting of: steel, copper, permanently bendable copper alloys, aluminum, and permanently bendable aluminum alloys.

Claim 13 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 12 wherein each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods further comprises a cylindrical rod formed of a permanently bendable aluminum or aluminum alloy having a substantially constant diameter in the range of 1/4 inch to 1 inch.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 12 wherein:

each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods further comprises a uniformly cylindrical rod; and

the clamp mechanism is further structured with a plurality of part cylindrical reliefs, each of the part cylindrical reliefs being structured for clamping the first end portion of one of the plurality of support rods.

Claim 15 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 14 wherein the clamp mechanism further comprises an external collar and mating wedge with the plurality of part cylindrical reliefs formed therebetween.

Claim 16 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 14 wherein each of the plurality of part cylindrical reliefs further comprises a pair of part cylindrical reliefs with complementary part cylindrical reliefs formed in an internal surface of the collar and an external surface of the wedge.

Claim 17 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 16, further comprising an elastically flexible sheath substantially covering each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods between the clamp and shoe mechanisms.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A vehicle mounting bracket, comprising:

a plurality of ~~unitary-uniformly-continuous-permanently-independently~~ bendable
non-telescoping support [[rods]] legs each of single-piece construction having a permanently
fixed and length and being formed of unitary metal rods having a uniformly continuous solid and
5 unbroken cross-section, each of the [[support]] unitary metal rods having first and second
lengthwise end portions at opposite ends thereof and being permanently bendable in each of three
physical dimensions along substantially an entire length between the first and second lengthwise
end portions;

a clamp for joining the support rods in a fixed arrangement, the clamp comprising:

10 an outer female collar forming therein a cavity having at intervals around an inside
wall surface thereof a plurality of relief grooves that are sized for nesting of the first lengthwise
end portion of one of the support rods, one of the plurality of relief grooves being formed for
each of the plurality of support rods,

an inner male wedge having at intervals around an outside wall surface thereof a
15 plurality of relief grooves that are sized for nesting of the lengthwise end portion of one of the
support rods, one of the relief grooves being formed in a complementary configuration with a
corresponding one of the relief grooves formed on the collar inside wall surface for forming a
plurality of pairs of complementary relief grooves with one of the pairs being provided for each of
the support rods, each of the plurality of pairs of complementary relief grooves partly enclosing a
20 lengthwise space that is smaller than the respective support rod end portion; and

means for urging the male wedge into the outer female collar with each of the support rod
lengthwise end portions securely captured the lengthwise space partly enclosed by one of the pairs
of complementary relief grooves.

Claim 19 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 18, further comprising a shoe coupled to the
25 second lengthwise end portion of one or more of the support rods, the shoe being structured with
means for securing the respective second end portion relative to an external surface.

Claim 20 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 19 wherein the shoe further comprises one of:
a shoe structured for being permanently fixed to an external surface with a mechanical fastener,
and a shoe structured for resisting slipping relative to an external surface.

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 18 wherein the collar further comprises a rigid mounting platform portion formed opposite from cavity having the plurality of relief grooves formed therein.

5 Claim 23 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 22 wherein the plurality of permanently bendable metal support rods further comprises a cylindrical support rod formed of a metal selected from the group of permanently bendable metals consisting of aluminum and permanently bendable aluminum alloys.

10 Claim 24 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 22 wherein the plurality of permanently bendable metal support rods further comprises a substantially cylindrical support rod with the first and second lengthwise end portions at opposite ends thereof being substantially cylindrical lengthwise end portions; and

15 wherein the plurality of relief grooves formed in one or both of the collar and wedge clamp portions further comprises part cylindrical relief grooves sized to nest the first lengthwise cylindrical support rod end portions therein.

Claim 25 (cancelled)

20 Claim 26 (new): The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of support rods further comprises an integral lengthwise portion between the first and second end portions being substantially independently permanently bendable in three dimensions along substantially an entire length thereof between the first and second end portions.

Claim 27 (new): The mounting bracket of claim 9 wherein the plurality of unitary support rods further comprises three of the unitary support rods; and

25 wherein the nonextensible elongated length of a first one of the unitary support rods further comprises a first nonextensible length different from a second nonextensible length of a second one of the unitary support rods.